



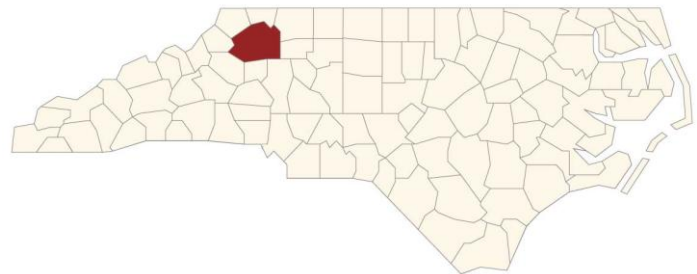
On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama. ARRA provides increased support to several existing federal programs administered by states, creates new programs such as the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, and offers opportunities for states to apply for competitive grant programs.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's significant investment in North Carolina totaled almost \$19.5 billion, including assistance for those needing help the most through increases in unemployment benefits, Medicaid payments, and food stamps. In addition to those expanded services, ARRA gives hundreds of thousands of working North Carolinians a break through tax credits like the *Making Work Pay* tax credit and the *First Time Homebuyer's* tax credit.

The Recovery Act is not like earlier attempts to revive the nation's economy. It is not only a one-time infusion of federal funds; instead it is a long-term effort to restore economic expansion in the short-term, as well as prepare the nation's economy for stable, healthy long-term growth. Under the terms of the Recovery Act, support for North Carolina's economy will include both investments made directly by the federal government and investments of federal funds that are made under the oversight of the North Carolina state government.

## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Report, Wilkes County

Wilkes County received more than \$88.6 million in ARRA funding in grants, loans, and bonds. The following report outlines the various funding categories that contributed to the Wilkes County total.



**Pell Grant Awards:**  
**1,765**



**Small Business Jobs:**  
**38**

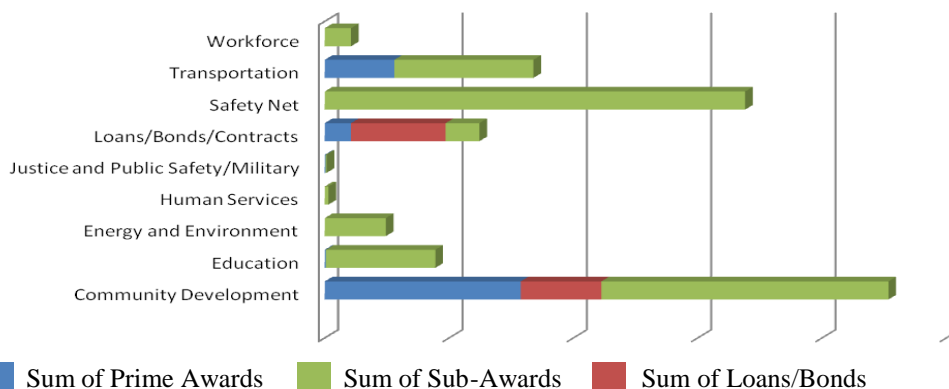


**Appliances rebated:**  
**132**



**Family homes financed:**  
**61**

### Wilkes County Totals



**Wilkes County,**  
pop 69,340 at a glance:

**Recovery Act Totals:**  
Grants: \$74,519,162  
Loans: \$14,097,694

**Total: \$88,616,856**



## Education

The Recovery Act placed a special emphasis on maintaining education funding. Governor Beverly Perdue furthered this commitment by pledging additional recovery funds from the Recovery Act to education, and leading North Carolina to additional funds by winning \$400 million in the Race to the Top program.

Most of the ARRA education funds are distributed to local schools through existing funding formulas. Special Education Funds and Title I funds go to schools based on eligible student enrollment. State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) and the EduJobs grants were designed to hold schools harmless during the recession, and were distributed to public and charter schools. The school systems have spent the majority of the funds on staff and support. Some projects, such as Race to the Top, will be spent for purchasing products and services rather than salaries for staff.

Authorization for low/no interest bonds for school construction/renovation followed the Department of Public Instruction procedures with initial allotments to the school systems. If a school system could not utilize their allotment, it was released to other school systems that could utilize additional allotments.

**Wilkes County schools** received \$13.2 million in education funding, including \$2.1 million in Special Education funds, \$1.4 million in Title I funds, \$6 million in SFSF funds, and \$1 million in Race to the Top funding.

Pell Grants are an educational Assistance Program that provides grants to eligible students to receive post-secondary or vocational training. Because Pell Grants are not student loans, they allow students to receive financial assistance to further education and training without incurring additional debt. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act increased the eligibility and the maximum amount of Pell Grants in 2009 and 2010 as a way to encourage educational opportunities, and to provide a way for eligible applicants to gain new job skills.

**In Wilkes County**, institutions had 1,765 students funded by Pell Grants; these grants were worth more than \$2.4 million.



## Family Assistance

The Federal Department of Agriculture increased funding to their Single-Family home program with the ARRA. These resources assisted families in achieving the American Dream of home ownership through direct financial assistance (grants) or credit (loan guarantees). This program pumped more than \$729 million into North Carolina, providing assistance to more than 5,400 families.

**In Wilkes County**, 61 families received assistance through this program totaling more than \$6.9 million.

The Department of Energy created the Energy Star Appliance rebate program to help stimulate the economy by incentivizing the purchase of new, more energy efficient appliances, and helping consumers by providing long-term savings from their utility bills. The State Energy Office in the North Carolina Department of Commerce managed the program insuring North Carolina residents and retailers received the maximum benefit from this opportunity. North

Carolina retailers sold more than 25,500 new energy efficiency appliances through this program, and North Carolina residents will enjoy energy savings for years to come. The program was so successful, that the State Energy Office reprogrammed additional funding to provide discounts to everyone participating in the program, bringing the total program value from \$8 up to \$10 Million.

**Wilkes County** retailers sold 132 appliances through the Energy Star Appliance rebate program.



## Small Business Assistance

The ARRA provided tax breaks, increased depreciation of business assets, and incentives for hiring for small businesses through the tax law changes found in Part B of the Act. The Recovery Act also established direct aid programs through the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA). These programs provided grants, loans and loan guarantees to grant small businesses access to much-needed operational credit during 2009 and 2010.

**In Wilkes County,** 5 small businesses received SBA loan guarantees worth \$681,500. According to the small businesses receiving these loans, the Recovery Act saved or created 38 jobs. Additionally, the USDA Business and Industry Program provided 1 loan worth more than \$900,000 dollars that saved or created 13 jobs.



## Farm Assistance

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program is administered by the Farm Services Administration in the federal Department of Agriculture, which provides assistance to farmers suffering crop losses due to natural disasters. To qualify for the program a farm must have lost at least 10% of one crop during a natural disaster in a declared disaster county, or lost 50% of a crop during a disaster in a non-disaster county. North Carolina farmers received more than \$9 million in total payments under the ARRA-Funded SURE Program.

**In Wilkes County,** \$41,173 was received in assistance to farmers because of crop loss to natural disasters.



## CARS Program

The Car Allowance Rebate Program (CARS), more widely known as the 'Cash-for-Clunkers' program, provided an incentive for drivers of older, energy inefficient vehicles to upgrade to new cars. This program also provided a large economic impact in North Carolina, and North Carolina dealers received more than 18,000 trade-in vehicles through this program. North Carolina Car Dealers sold more than \$400,000,000 worth of new cars (recommended MSRP) through the CARS program. North Carolina drivers will save 172,130 miles per gallon through cars purchased through this program.

**In Wilkes County,** car dealers sold 149 cars worth \$3 million through the ARRA CARS program.



## Environment and Natural Resources Programs

ARRA funded several programs to protect the environment, or to develop natural resources more efficiently. These programs ranged from environmental clean-up, such as leaking underground storage tank abatement and Brownfields programs, to EPA clean air grants, wildfire prevention grants, and revolving funds to build, expand, or overhaul existing water and sewer programs. These programs provided nearly \$150 million across North Carolina.

**In Wilkes County**, the Rhonda Town Hall received a water and sewer grant worth almost \$1.5 million.



## Green Energy Programs

One of the goals of ARRA was to provide grants to help conserve energy and assist in the development of a green economy. The State Energy Office in the North Carolina Department of Commerce received large grants for energy conservation under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. These grants include the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), funded at just under \$20 million, and the State Energy Plan (SEP), funded at \$70 million. The State Energy Office then used these grants to make awards to businesses, non-profits, and local governments for various purposes.

**In Wilkes County**, the Interflex Group, received an SEP grant of \$275,398 to change the drying stage of its flexographic printing process from compressed air to heated air blown by motors on variable frequency drives.



## Safety Net Programs

Safety net programs are the category of ARRA funding that consists of programs designed to help populations made particularly vulnerable by the economic crisis. These generally include increases in existing programs, most notably the increase in both benefit level and duration of unemployment payments. Increases in the amount and duration of unemployment payments makes up the largest chunk of safety net programs funded through the Recovery Act, totaling more than \$3.5 billion statewide over more than two years. Safety net programs such as unemployment insurance and SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps), not only benefit the recipient, but have a proven economic impact on a community.

**Wilkes County** residents received \$24.8 million in Unemployment Insurance increases during the 2 ½ year ARRA benefits increase. County residents also received \$4.9 million in SNAP benefit increases, and \$4 million in one-time payments of \$250 to social security recipients.

**Wilkes** County received more than \$94,819 for Head Start Programs.

# Wilkes County Feature Story

## The Recovery Act Invests in Broadband for Wilkes County

One of the important goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was to promote the construction of important infrastructure and technological foundation for a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. High-speed internet, also known as broadband, is one of today's great infrastructure challenges. By investing in broadband, ARRA is laying the groundwork for sustainable economic growth, well-paying jobs, and global competitiveness. Like other widespread technological advances, broadband is an enabling technology that will allow for innovations that today cannot be anticipated. Broadband will create a platform for innovation and entrepreneurship across all sectors of the economy and address many of the state's priorities including healthcare, education, small business, and public safety.



There were two major broadband programs in the ARRA, the US Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), which focused on large infrastructure projects, and the USDA's existing Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP), which made awards to expand existing services. North Carolina is a national leader in broadband, ranking fourth nationally in the award of Recovery broadband projects, receiving more than \$280 million in BIP and BTOP projects. 81 North Carolina counties will receive funding or be traversed by a Recovery-funded broadband program. These programs include projects that support primary and higher education, public safety, economic development, serve vulnerable populations, and provide direct broadband services to consumers.



Wilkes County Telephone Membership Corporation based in Wilkesboro, has served the citizens of Wilkes County for more than 55 years. They are a non-profit, member-owned organization. Wilkes Telecommunications reflects the growth in the organization which now offers telephone service, high speed internet, and other telecommunications services. Wilkes Telecommunications applied for and was awarded more than \$21 million to provide last mile fiber optic high speed broadband, video, and voice services to underserved rural areas in Wilkes County. The BIP award was in the form of a 30% loan obligation of \$6,483,000 coupled with a grant of \$15,750,500.

The Recovery-funded program will install about 800 miles of underground fiber optic cable in 10 specified areas in portions of its service area that currently do not have broadband internet service. This fiber-optic expansion will greatly increase the current 1.5 megabit service availability offered over current copper lines.

Wilkes Telecommunications is already 13% complete with its current construction plans to over-build the first half of their network with fiber optic service. The company already received approval for the first half of the network consisting of approximately 5,000 residences. The expansion would make broadband available to about 8,500 people, 300 businesses and 45 churches, schools, fire stations and other public institutions.

Wilkes Telecommunications currently has about 10,000 individual phone customers and almost 5,000 high speed internet customers. This Recovery-funded upgrade will enable speeds of up to 100 megabits to each customer over the fiber optic service. It will also enable the company to expand its digital television service as it is currently only offering service via fiber optic lines to its members.

The build-out to be completed within three years and should create at least 160 jobs. Almost all of the jobs will consist of sub-contracted construction and engineering related work as well as those created from the economic impact of the upgrade.

## Appendix, Wilkes County breakout

Federal Agency	Program Title	Recipient name	Recipient role <sup>i</sup>	Prime Amount <sup>ii</sup>	Unique Sub Awards <sup>iii</sup>	Loans	Additional Economic Activity (not counted toward totals) <sup>iv</sup>
	Bonds		P			\$0.00	
	Cash for Clunkers		S		\$643,500.00		
	Federal Pell Grant Program	Wilkes Community College	P				
	Very Low to Moderate Income Housing Loans - Guaranteed	Individuals	L			\$6,975,894.00	
<b>Administration for Children and Families</b>	ARRA - Child Care and Development Block Grant	Wilkes, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$283,931.35	\$0.00	
	ARRA - Head Start	Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission, Incorporated	P	\$94,819.00		\$0.00	\$94,819.00
<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</b>	ARRA - Immunization	Wilkes, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$26,008.00	\$0.00	
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>	Business and Industry Loans	Various	L		\$900,000.00		
	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Multiple Individuals	S		\$4,965,092.14		
<b>Department of Energy</b>	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)	North Wilkesboro, Town Of	S	\$0.00	\$38,813.00	\$0.00	
		Wilkes, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$358,635.00	\$0.00	
	Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons	Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission, Incorporated	S	\$0.00	\$1,922,596.00	\$0.00	
<b>Department of Housing and Urban Development</b>	Public Housing Capital Fund Formula (Recovery Act Funded)	North Wilkesboro Housing Authority	P	\$458,405.00		\$0.00	\$458,405.00
		Northwest Regional Housing Authority	P	\$180,373.00		\$0.00	\$180,373.00
<b>Department of Justice</b>	Recovery Act - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program / Grants To Units Of Local	Wilkes, County Of	P	\$74,451.00		\$0.00	\$74,451.00

	Government					
<b>Department of Labor</b>	Unemployment Insurance	Multiple Individuals	S		\$24,816,075.85	
<b>Environmental Protection Agency</b>	Capitalization Grants for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds	Ronda Town Hall	S	\$0.00	\$1,428,807.00	\$0.00
<b>Federal Highway Administration</b>	Highway Planning and Construction	Bo's Landscaping, Inc.	PV	\$0.00		\$80,748.77
		Carl Rose & Sons, Inc.	PV	\$0.00		\$1,538,191.10
				\$0.00		\$3,742,595.05
		Country Boy Landscaping, Inc.	PV	\$0.00		\$89,776.00
		North Carolina Department Of Transportation	P	\$1,652,051.00		\$1,652,051.00
				\$93,043.00		\$93,043.00
				\$106,799.00		\$106,799.00
				\$3,749,661.00		\$3,749,661.00
		RK&K Engineering , LLP	PV	\$0.00		\$7,065.95
		Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers	PV	\$0.00		\$2,297.87
<b>Federal Transit Administration</b>	Formula Grants for Other Than Urbanized Areas	Wilkes Transportation Authority Inc	S	\$0.00	\$122,750.00	\$0.00
<b>Food and Nutrition Service</b>	Child Nutrition Discretionary Grants Limited Availability	Wilkes County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$36,960.00	\$0.00
<b>Idaho Operations Office</b>	Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program (EEARP)		P			\$19,384.40
<b>National Energy Technology Laboratory</b>	State Energy Program	Interflex Group, Inc., The	S	\$0.00	\$275,398.00	\$0.00
		Wilkes County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$140,000.00	\$0.00
		Wilkesboro, Town of	S	\$0.00	\$82,094.81	\$0.00
<b>Office of Elementary and Secondary Education</b>	Education for Homeless Children and Youth, Recovery Act	Wilkes County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$25,185.00	\$0.00
	Education Technology State Grants, Recovery Act	Wilkes County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$39,532.00	\$0.00
	State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) - Education State Grants, Recovery Act	Bridges Educational Foundation, Inc.	S	\$0.00	\$82,278.00	\$0.00
		Wilkes Community	S	\$0.00	\$567,432.81	\$0.00



		College				
		Wilkes County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$5,362,163.00	\$0.00
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services	State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) - Race-to-the-Top Incentive Grants, Recovery Act	Wilkes County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$1,045,090.00	\$0.00
	Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies, Recovery Act	Wilkes County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$1,468,543.00	\$0.00
	Special Education - Preschool Grants, Recovery Act	Wilkes County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$81,871.00	\$0.00
	Special Education Grants to States, Recovery Act	Bridges Educational Foundation, Inc.	S	\$0.00	\$35,239.64	\$0.00
		Wilkes County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$2,081,629.00	\$0.00
Rural Utilities Service	Broadband Initiatives Program	Lamberts Cable Splicing Company, LLC.	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00
				\$0.00		\$182,900.36
				\$0.00		\$426,767.52
		Mid-South Consulting Engineers, Inc.	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00
				\$0.00		\$70,528.10
				\$0.00		\$164,565.57
		Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation	P	\$0.00	\$6,483,300.00	\$6,483,300.00
				\$15,127,700.00	\$0.00	\$15,127,700.00
Small Business Administration	Loans	Arlie G Bullis And Vickie B Bu	L		\$121,500.00	
		Christopher Cartwright	L		\$7,500.00	
		Deep Reflection Products & Ser	L		\$95,000.00	
		High County Underground, LLC A	L		\$402,000.00	
		Powersportgrafx-Invincashield	L		\$12,500.00	
SSA	Social Security Economic Recovery Act Payments	Multiple Individuals	P		\$4,039,000.00	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - civil program financing only	No CFDA for Contract type awards	Custom Sports & Recreation Equipment LLC	P	\$75,396.00		\$0.00
		Diamondwater Construction, LLC	P	\$58,919.10		\$0.00
				\$175,000.00	\$0.00	\$175,000.00



	Dlb Trucking, Inc.	P	\$175,150.00	\$0.00	\$175,150.00	
	F.W. Jones Surveying	P	\$20,528.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Fuel Tank Maintenance Company, L.L.C.	P	\$612,450.00	\$0.00	\$367,520.00	
	Harrison Industries Inc	P	\$59,634.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
			\$37,380.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Joyner Keeny, PLLC	P	\$113,187.31	\$0.00	\$113,187.31	
	Lakey's Backhoe Service Inc	S	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$244,930.00	
	Lanier Plans, Inc.	P	\$70,011.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Maxwell Tool Sales Inc	P	\$61,318.78	\$0.00	\$61,318.78	
	New South Associates, Inc.	P	\$25,067.18	\$0.00	\$25,067.18	
	Re-Engineered Business Solutions, Inc.	P	\$590,259.41	\$0.00	\$590,259.41	
	Smith-Phillips Lumber Company	P	\$38,934.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	
USACE						
Grand Total			\$23,650,538.14	\$50,868,624.59	\$14,097,694.00	\$36,156,774.47

<sup>i</sup> Recipient Role are as follows: P is a prime recipient; S is a Sub-recipient; PV is a vendor to a prime recipient; SV is a vendor to a sub-recipient; L is a loan recipient.

<sup>ii</sup> Prime Amounts are unique prime awards within a county. These are entities who have received funding directly from a federal agency, and are required to report directly to [www.federalreporting.gov](http://www.federalreporting.gov)

<sup>iii</sup> Unique Sub Awards are amounts that flow into a county from a source that is NOT directly from a Federal Agency. Generally these are funds awarded to the North Carolina State Government that have been directed to a local source.

<sup>iv</sup> Additional Economic Activity are economic activity attributable to a previous funding category. They may be a sub award by a prime recipient within a county, or a contract funded by one of the previous three columns. This economic activity is not counted toward the county total.